

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
AGRE-00 COME-00 EB-07 CPR-01 PM-04 NSC-05 OPR-02
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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, OVIP, EAGR, PFOR, BU (SHOPOV, VULKAN)

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR VULKAN SHOPOV

USIA PASS IEU, IBS/PE

REF: A) 76 SOFIA 0471; B) 76 SOFIA 2684

1. VULKAN SHOPOV, CHIEF OF SECTION OF AGRICULTURE, CENTRAL COMMITTEE, BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY, AND FORMER MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE, HAS ACCEPTED INVITATION (SEE REF B) AS VIP EXCHANGE VISITOR. SHOPOV WILL ARRIVE DULLES AIRPORT 1530 HRS VIA TWA 891 JUNE 5, WITH PROGRAM DATE JUNE 6. AT EMBASSY'S REQUEST HE IS PREPARED TO STAY FOUR WEEKS IN US. HIS PRINCIPAL INTERESTS ARE: VISITS TO SPECIALIZED AND DIVERSIFIED FARMS; UNIVERSITIES SPECIALIZING IN AGRICULTURE AND AGRONOMY; AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENTATION STATIONS SUCH AS BELTSVILLE; LARGE-SCALE CATTLE-BREEDING, CATTLE-RAISING INSTALLATIONS; MANUFACTURERS OF ADVANCED AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY; CENTERS FOR SELECTION OF HYBRID CORN AND WHEAT; LARGE SCALE FRUIT-AND-VEGETABLE FARMS. WE RECOMMEND OVERNIGHT STAYS IN FARM COMMUNITIES BE INTERSPERSED.

2. SHOPOV, WHOSE PARTY RANK MAKES HIM EQUIVALENT OF GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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MINISTER, WILL BE HIGHEST RANKING BULGARIAN EVER TO HAVE VISITED US UNDER INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROGRAM. HE ALSO WILL BE FIRST SENIOR CENTRAL COMMITTEE FUNCTIONARY TO VISIT UNDER IVP. AS SUCH, EMBASSY STRONGLY BELIEVES HE MUST BE ACCORDED VIP STATUS AS FAR AS PER DIEM AND GENERAL TREATMENT IS CONCERNED. IN PARTICULAR, EMBASSY BELIEVES WASHINGTON CALLS SHOULD INCLUDE EITHER SECRETARY OR UNDERSECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, DEPUTY

ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR EAST-WEST TRADE, AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS. ALL WILL FIND SHOPOV KNOWLEDGEABLE, EXTREMELY ARTICULATE AND A VERY SHARP SPOKESMAN FOR COMMUNIST BULGARIA.

3. SPECIFIC PROGRAMMING SUGGESTIONS. MONTH-LONG PERIOD WILL PERMIT GREAT DIVERSIFICATION GEOGRAPHICALLY AND THEMATICALLY FOR SHOPOV'S FIRST VISIT TO US. WE SUGGEST IN ADDITION TO WASHINGTON, VISIT INCLUDE FOLLOWING AREAS: (A) SOUTHEASTERN AGRICULTURAL REGION, INCLUDING VISIT TO ATLANTA OR OTHER SOUTHERN CITY; (B) GREAT PLAINS WHEAT, CORN AND SOYBEAN REGION, INCLUDING VISIT TO MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL AND PERHAPS CHICAGO; (C) WESTERN US, INCLUDING IMPERIAL VALLEY (OR OTHER AREA OF LARGE-SCALE IRRIGATION), LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO. SHOPOV IS NOT, RPT NOT, INTERESTED IN BEING IN NEW YORK WHEN THRACIAN ART EXHIBIT OPENS AT METROPOLITAN JUNE 11, BUT WOULD LIKE TO VISIT NEW YORK. IN GENERAL, HE WOULD LIKE TO SEE MOST ADVANCED FORMS OF AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY. HE HAS SAID HE EXPECTS TO WORK HARD DURING VISIT.

4. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES. SHOPOV OPEN TO SUGGESTIONS REGARDING CULTURAL EVENTS WHICH SHOULD BE INTERMIXED WITH AGRICULTURAL VISIT, RATHER THAN BUNCHED. LANGUAGE PROBLEMS PRECLUDE THEATER, BUT HE WOULD APPRECIATE CHANCE TO SEE MODERN AMERICAN DANCE (THOUGH WE SUSPECT ANYTHING TOO AVANT GARDE WOULD NOT GO DOWN WELL; BELIEVE AMERICAN BALLET THEATER, ALVIN AILEY OR ELIOT FELD WOULD BE JUST ABOUT RIGHT), BROADWAY SHOW (SUGGEST, IF POSSIBLE, A CHORUS LINE OR BUBBLING BROWN SUGAR), OPERA, OR ORCHESTRAL CONCERTS. SHOPOV NOT INTERESTED IN JAZZ OR ROCK. UNCLASSIFIED

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ADDITIONALLY, KENNEDY CENTER, LINCOLN CENTER, DISNEYLAND, SMITHSONIAN, FIELD MUSEUM WOULD ALL BE BOUND TO MAKE FAVORABLE IMPRESSION. AS FAR AS UNIVERSITY VISITS GO, SUGGEST UNIVERSITY OF IOWA, KANSAS, INDIANA OR CORNELL. INDIANA, WHICH HAS BULGARIAN STUDIES PROGRAM, MIGHT BE PARTICULARLY APPROPRIATE.

5. SPECIAL NOTE. SHOPOV MADE SPECIAL POINT OF SAYING HE DOES NOT WANT TO "BUMP INTO" CORRESPONDENTS FROM RFE/RL WHILE IN US, AND DOES NOT WISH TO GIVE INTERVIEW TO VOA THOUGH HE HAS NO OBJECTION TO VOA CARRYING SOME MENTION OF HIS VISIT.

6. LANGUAGE-INTERPRETER. SHOPOV ESSENTIALLY HAS NO ENGLISH. IN ADDITION TO HIS NATIVE BULGARIAN, HE IS FLUENT IN RUSSIAN. HE ASKED THAT INTERPRETER NOT BE "POLITICAL IMMIGRANT" AND ASKED FOR "NATIVE AMERICAN". DCM ASSURED SHOPOV THAT INTERPRETER WOULD BE SELECTED IN SUCH FASHION AS TO ASSURE THERE WOULD BE ABSOLUTELY NO POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT. EMBASSY URGES THAT IF POSSIBLE MRS PENKA FRENCH, WHO HAS PREVIOUSLY INTERPRETED FOR SENIOR GOB OFFICIALS, BE SELECTED AS ESCORT-

INTERPRETER. MRS FRENCH IS WELL-KNOWN TO GOB AND WOULD BE
FULLY ACCEPTABLE TO SHOPOV.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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